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the most dangerous to counteract the wishes, or contradict the words of those gentlemen who are only waiting in anxious suspense, for any tolerable pretext upon which to assert their claims to these modern Amazons. But I am sorry to state, that the fatal consequences of this threatened invasion will not be solely confined to matrons; such is the gaiety, and such the vivacity of those Parisian ladies, that they will soon attract the attention of those lively sparks that are always actuated by a sense of novelty, and become spontaneous victims of the true coquette.

Walking out the other day I met Miss Flirtilla Emmerson, a young lady, who, for several years has been the brightest luminary in this northern hemisphere. Seldom does she appear in any public assembly, without slaying her "thousands, and her tens of thousands." Though not yet turned of twenty-three, she possesses numerous trophies of her vanquished lovers. It is even said her skill in captivation is so profound, that she has often conquered a dozen by a single glance. Upon my giving her a slight hint of her immediate danger, she has absolutely resolved to abandon the savage and inhuman practice of making universal conquest, and to marry a frigid-hearted old bachelor of seventy. Some neighbouring ladies who envy her condition, take the liberty of saying that she having formerly refused so many proposals, now makes a virtue of necessity, and is taught by experience, the fatal consequences of permitting favourable opportunities to pass unimproved. But though some giddy young flirts may so far err in judgment, as to think that old men are not the proper objects of conjugal affection, yet will they find by experience, that when numbers with reluctance, must give their youthful husbands to the French

ladies, my friend Flirtilla, will be permitted to retain hers, he being considered an object unworthy of removal. A friend of mine to whom I related both this story and that of Agricola's wife, asserts, that a general imitation of the conduct of those two ladies, would be the most effectual means of securing against the effects of the intended invasion. But my real opinion is, that recourse must be had to arms, as the only means of securing our national safety. Shall the poor uncultivated Gento women, who are strangers to the lively sensibilities of the most tender affection, voluntarily leap into the flames that consume their deceased husbands, and shall not our Irish females so highly celebrated for conjugal fidelity, brave all the horrors of the martial field, in securing the possession of their husbands when alive?

J.G.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

WHILE considerable diversity of sentiment appears to prevail on the subject of Mnemonics, and while one set of people supports a system which another considers only a fair subject for ridicule and contempt, a few candid remarks from an impartial person, who professes, at least, to have no guide except truth in any controversy, may not be unacceptable to the readers of the Magazine.

The subject of mnemonics appears to have early attracted the attention of ingenious men. Some of the learned ancients speak particularly of the art of assisting the memory. And there can be no doubt but the subject is one of the least proper that could be selected for the shaft of ridicule. Memory is of the highest importance to men in

every sphere of life; and professional men in particular cannot bestow too much pains to assist and improve it. Indeed, speculatists may render themselves contemptible by the absurd and visionary schemes which they may recommend for this purpose, but the thing itself, the art of improving or assisting the memory, can never excite the contempt of the considerate and the wise.

The mode of assisting the memory by the use of hieroglyphics is objectionable; first, because of the expense and trouble of providing the necessary apparatus; secondly, because the figures, in order to effectually serve the intended object, should be subjects of frequent observation; and generally, because the system is not sufficiently simple. Any plan of this nature should consist of few parts, and should be easily resorted to. It cannot otherwise be of real or general use. Without further remark therefore, I pass from Mr. Feinaigle's system to that of Mr. Sams, as much more reasonable, and better adapted to common use.

Mr. Sams uses no hieroglyphics. The imagination is the grand organ through which the memory is to receive assistance. The pictures by which the associations are formed, do not exist in reality; the imagination merely forms the idea or conception of them.

For the purpose of recollecting dates, &c. letters stand for figures; and those letters are combined into words. Consonants only are employed to represent figures; so that every date gives a choice of a variety of words to represent it. The reason of using words in place of the figures themselves is this, that words easily associate with words, which figures do not. Thus it is more easy to recollect the word *rider* as associated with Egbert, than 828, the

year of that king's accession to the throne. This will be especially observable, when the student endeavours to recollect a great variety of different dates, &c. Without the aid of those words which suggest the figures required, he would find his memory quickly overwhelmed. It will be found that children in particular most readily form those associations which are necessary in chronology, &c. while it would be almost impossible to make them commit to memory, or recollect for any considerable length of time, the dates themselves.

So far the system is excellent, and may be employed in schools on a variety of subjects with the best effects. Chronology may be most expeditiously learned in this way. Geography too, at least so far as it respects latitudes and longitudes, and distances of places, will very conveniently admit of its use. Statistics also, in so far as extent and population of countries is concerned, and that part of astronomy which treats of the distances of the heavenly bodies, will properly admit of the application of the system. In short, wherever numbers are to be the subjects of recollection, the mnemonic system may be usefully employed. For words can always be found to represent numbers, which will be much more easily recollected than those numbers. But to the learning of poetry, grammar, logic, and history, it cannot be profitably employed. For here its application is very imperfect, and the labour of applying it too great.

Mr. Sams directs his pupils to conceive the floor and walls of the room to be divided into squares, with certain numbers affixed to them. The use of this is to enable them to call up any date, suppose the date of a king's accession in its proper order, so as to be able to say, that

such a king was the 10th in succession, such a king the 20th; and when the 10th or 20th king is called for, to be enabled to name him. By the same scheme, any line of poetry called for, can be remembered. All this is done by transferring in imagination the several objects to their respective numbered squares. But this part of the system is of little use. Indeed, the diligent student may by the use of it, astonish an audience who do not understand it; and may thus do in a few weeks, what another could not do in as many years; but the thing of prime utility is to remember dates. To recollect the exact numerical order of events, or of the verses of a poem, can be of very little practical use.

Upon the whole, having diligently attended to Mr. Sams' lectures, I can warmly recommend that part of his system, which I have above mentioned with approbation, to masters of schools, lecturers in colleges, and professional men. On a variety of subjects they would feel its usefulness, if applied with proper judgment, and studied with sufficient care. For here, as in every thing else, nothing is to be had for nothing. If a detail of the particulars of the system would be generally acceptable, I shall give it in some future communication.

MNEMON.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

ON a visit lately to a lunatic asylum, I witnessed the wanderings of the unfortunate victim of insanity. Popular opinion says, and says truly, that "they have lost their reason." Let us consider how far incongruities of every kind, the victims of superstition among the

rest, may not class with these. The famous story of antiquity respecting the citizens of Abdera comes before me. They found that their fellow-citizen Democritus, not conforming to their systems of faith and practice, had lost his reason: they sent for his friend Hippocrates, the celebrated physician, to cure him. Hippocrates coming and examining his patient, was convinced that Democritus was perfectly in his senses, but that the men of Abdera on the contrary, were the unfortunate victims of insanity.

The Deity, in the constitution of man, in constructing that admirable fabric and composition of body and spirit, brute matter combined with a thinking soul, placed reason atop, as a regulator, to prevent the discordancy of such opposite ingredients. Reason presided, and held her dominion, no doubt, until vices sprung up in the soil of the human heart, and error, rank weed, flourished among the rest, deforming God's garden, which his hand had made. Reason has a strong affinity to light, discovering to man the nature of his being, the nature of the God that made him, and the relation he stands in with respect to his God, and the rest of the creation. Error inclines toward darkness; at least cannot bear the strong light of truth or the suggestions of reason. She gives preference to the prism colours, and pleases herself and her votaries with pictures and plausible semblances of truth: hence arise many deceptions in the world, of which mankind boast, and are willing to attribute to sovereign reason, but which right reason rejects, because not redcible to the standard of truth. These errors are known by the thousand inconveniences they lead into. Let us exemplify: these principles in society called patriotism, national glory, divine right of